

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2005

The Solid Waste Committee (SWC) has been busy, as the Town continued to change from a landfill to a transfer station. Projects included updating the Board of Health Solid Waste Regulations, as well as continuing to work on ways to improve solid waste management, disposal, and recycling in the Town.

We are especially proud of the food-waste recycling program in three elementary schools in the 2004-2005 school year. This program was begun by SWC members, Recycling Coordinator Marlene Barnett, as well as interested parents, and is primarily run by volunteers and the maintenance staff at the schools. The food is brought to Greenfield and composted. The SWC is looking forward to this program expanding into the High School this fall. Thanks especially to Meg Vickery, Harvey Allen, Clare Bertrand and Marlene Barnett for their hard work.

The SWC also continues to work on outreach to improve recycling in multi-family residences.

UMass student Justin Cahuna worked as an intern for the Town's Recycling Coordinator last spring. He completed drafts of an Amherst Recyclopedia and a leaflet that will be used at the Transfer Station to answer questions about "What do I do with my...". A group of UMass students completed an interesting survey of users of the Transfer Station with SWC input. It focused on user satisfaction and suggestions. The SWC found the comments very useful for problem solving and planning.

Changes

The Recycling Coordinator has traditionally been a person who works for the DPW, writing grants, researching pricing and vendors or dealers of recyclables, obtaining and supervising an intern, running Hazardous Waste and Paint Recycling Days, dealing with citizen complaints, scheduling volunteers as well as being the staff and support person for the SWC. Town support of this position in the past has greatly facilitated the ability of Amherst and the SWC to develop and expand its excellent recycling programs.

Due to budget constraints, in September 2004 the position of the Town Recycling Coordinator became a two-day-a-week position instead of the five days it had been for years. This has impacted the SWC, especially with regard to multi-family and school outreach, as well as with follow-through of recycling questions and publicity. Given the possible loss of the position entirely, the SWC was grateful for two days a week.

The SWC continues to have more great ideas than time to do it all. The Committee lost two wonderful members this year, Joan Ross Logan and Alan Snow, as well as Eva Schiffer, who was the Select Board liaison. We hope to get back to full strength soon so that we can take on some of our "to do" list.

Pat Church, chair

Harvey Allen

Clare Bertrand

Maryanne Loranelli

Meg Vickery

Marlene Barnett, Solid Waste Management and Recycling Coordinator